

Beacon Falls Conservation Commission
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
August 10, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair RB called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M

Members Present: Kristen Jabanoski (KJ), Andrew Keane (AK), Ruth Burritt (RB), Ellie McAdam (EM)

Members Absent: Lori Paradis Brant (LPB), Lou Santora (LS), Ivana Potje (IP)

Others Present: None

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 8, 2021, AK/RB, all ayes.

3. Announcements – None

4. Comments from the Public - None

5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions minutes – None

6. Correspondence – Email resignation of Lou Santora and Ivana Potje effective immediately. RB – I received correspondence from Aquarian on an Environmental Champion Award recommendation, but the submission date was in July. Next year we could potential nominate someone. I also received a letter from CT Land Conservation Council looking for donations. RB - I will scan all of the correspondence and send them to members.

7. Old Business

a. Lantern Ridge Park Updates (Jabanoski/Keane)

- RB – the tree work was completed. KJ – in July I got a message from the Girl Scouts that they were interested in continuing to volunteer. I can reach back out to them to see what work they want to do there. AK – I did walk the trail and the tree was down and they did a great job. RB – should we send them an email thanking them for their work? AK – that is a good idea. KJ – I think that is a good idea and copy the Board of Selectmen.
- Lantern Ridge Plant Survey – RB – any word on that? KJ – Sophie was assigned to do this, and we were talking about doing this in June but could not find a weekend. I have lost touch with her, but I can follow up. The survey would have to be completed by November. RB – October would be a good time.

b. Current Development Projects in Town (Jabanoski) – RB – I could only assume this means Hopp Brook. There is going to be a Public Hearing on 8/26. I will be away but can anyone else attend? KJ- Andrew and I should be able to attend. I think we need to keep abreast of what they are proposing and see from a Conservation perspective how we can respond or influence the development. I think we just need to stay on top of it. AK – I have reviewed the application. There are two aspects. One to change the Plan of Conservation & Development because two parcels are designated as rural. They need to change

language to move forward with the development plans. RB – what would you recommend? AK – I would say that this should be referred to the Land Use Committee. They were responsible for drafting the Plan of Conservation. It would involve several members of Land Use Committees. KJ – the Land Use Committee should have to review it. AK – Generally the principal for them is to meet whenever there is a reason to meet. I think this warrants that Committee to meet. Would correspondence to P&Z Chair be a good start? KJ – it just makes so much sense if they wrote the plan. They should be accountable for changes to it. RB – yes, communication is key. AK – I think an email to the P&Z Chair, Land Use Chair, and the land use committees on that recommendation. AK – the second component is that they want 40 acres of open space for development. We can apply our criteria to see how valuable that space is. Half of that space contains inlands/wetlands that are already protected. Those development plans and review of open space should be looked at by the members. AK made a motion to send email correspondence to P&Z Chair, Land Use Committee Chair and Land Use Coordinator recommending that the potential change of the Plan of Conservation be reviewed by Land Use Committee, seconded by EM, all ayes.

- c. Fire Conditions Sign – RB – Cal sent an email and confirmed the sign has shipped and should arrive in the next week or so. We want it to go in front of the fire house and the other issue is that we should have an event for the unveiling. I am not sure who is going to install it. If we do that, I will want to get in touch with the Citizen's News etc. KJ – yes, we should get the Selectmen, Chiefs, EMD etc.

- d. Beacon Falls Conservation Page- Town Website – AK – we could create a Share Point and link it to the website. Kerry can make changes to the website. **RB made a motion to send short bio and photo to Kerry for updates to the Town Website, seconded by AK, all ayes.**

8. **New Business** – RB – something we discussed at the last meeting was going through the Ordinances etc. is that we should have appointed a secretary. I am not sure if anyone is interested or maybe this is something that we could recommend taking it out. EM – I would do it. Do I have to be elected? **RB made a motion to appoint EM as secretary, KJ seconded, all ayes.** AK – I think that education on how meetings operate are important for new members in addition to the education on Conservation. I do think that we could have requirements about in the first year, you attend a training on how government meetings are running and then the second-year continuing education training on conservation topics. RB – that is already part of our continuing education. KJ – I would have loved to have a training like that when I first started.
9. **Open Space Strategy and Planning** – AK – Lori and I have not met since the last meeting, but I think the first step here was to engage the community in seeing what everyone's perspective was on open space planning and then developing strength and weaknesses and then move forward. RB – can we put the Open Space map on the website? Clerk confirmed. AK will provide Kerry with necessary items to update on the Town Website. EM – what do we do when someone comes in contact with a bear? AK – I think they are more afraid of us. RB – I recently went to a seminar about Bears and it counted as my Continuing Education for the commission.
10. **Petition from Commissioners** – AK – I will look into the sign for Lantern Ridge and have a quote for the next meeting. RB – Rich Minnick may have some input on that.
11. **Payment of Bills** – RB motion to pay the split fee for the CACIWC membership renewal, seconded by KJ, all ayes. The \$120 fee is split between us and Inland Wetlands.
12. **Executive Session (if needed)** - None
13. **Adjournment**
Moment of silence in memory of Peter Christensen. Motion made by RB to adjourn the meeting at 7:31PM, AK seconded by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Conservation Commission